

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for replicating changes in a master source file set on a destination file system located on one or more hosts, the destination file system for access by a respective web server in each of the hosts, ~~each host having a respective agent,~~ the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) identifying changes in the master source file set on a master computer;
 - (b) storing the identified changes in a modification list;
 - (c) transmitting the modification list to ~~an~~ respective agent at each respective host in communication with ~~at least a respective one of the web servers running in the same host,~~ thereby notifying each of the web servers that the master source file set has changed, the agents having access to the destination file systems at the corresponding hosts, ~~the destination file system, the agent and the at least one web server running on the same host, thereby notifying the at least one web server that the master source file set has changed;~~
 - (d) waiting until a predetermined non-zero number or percentage of the agents determine that their respective web servers are able to receive the identified changes before transmitting the identified changes to the agents; and
 - (e) receiving a response from ~~the~~ at least one of the agents after step (d) indicating that the destination file system installed the identified changes.
2. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - (f) transmitting a copy of a changed file of the master source file set to the agent.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying step comprises the steps of:
 - inspecting a current version of the master source file set; and

comparing the current version to a previous version of the master source file set on the master computer.

5. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying step comprises the steps of:

installing a device driver to perform file operations and monitor changes to the master source file set; and

recording, by the device driver, changes to the master source file set.

6. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying step comprises: receiving a manifest describing changes to the master source file set.

7. (Previously presented): The method of claim 4 wherein the comparing step comprises comparing a file attribute of a file of the current version of the master source file set to a file attribute of a file of the previous version of the master source file set.

8. (Previously presented): The method of claim 7 wherein the file attribute comprises at least one attribute chose from the group consisting of file size, file permissions, file ownership, modification time, and a hash of the file.

9. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising before the identifying step, the step of calling a script of user configurable instructions by calling an operating system function.

10. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising, before the transmitting step, the step of calling a script of user configurable instructions by calling an operation system function.

11. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising, after the transmitting step, the step of calling a script of user configurable instructions by calling an operating system function.

12. (Original): The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of determining whether the transmitting step has successfully completed, and wherein the calling step occurs after the determining step.

13. (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein the step of calling a script occurs after the success of the transmission is known.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step comprises multicasting.

16-18 (Canceled)

19. ((Currently Amended): A web service system, comprising:
a manager for managing the web service system;
one or more hosts, each comprising a web server for receiving web page requests and an agent in communication with the manager and the web server; and
a content distributor in communication with the hosts and the manager, the content distributor providing notification of changes to a master source file set on a master computer to the hosts, the content distributor waiting until a predetermined non-zero number or percentage of the agents determine that their respective web servers are able to receive the identified changes before transmitting the identified changes to the agents, and the content distributor receiving a response indicating that the identified changes are installed.

20. (Previously presented): The system of claim 19, further comprising a traffic manager in communication with the manager, the traffic manager directing web page requests to the web server.

21. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 19, wherein the content distributor comprises:
(a) an identification module for identifying changes in the master source file set on a master computer;

(b) a modification list for storing identified changes to the master source file set;

(c) a transmitter for transmitting the modification list to the agent, the agent having access to a destination file system; and

(d) a receiver for receiving a response indicating that the destination file system received the identified changes.

22. (Previously presented): The system of claim 21, further comprising a transmitter for transmitting a copy of a changed file of the master source file set to the agent.

23. (Previously presented): The system of claim 21, wherein the agent comprises an installer for installing a copy of a changed file of the master source file set on the destination file system.

24. ((Currently Amended): A content distributor in communication with a computer, comprising:

(a) an identification module for identifying changes in a master source file set on a master computer;

(b) a modification list for storing identified changes to the master source file set;

(c) a transmitter for transmitting the modification list to one or more agents in communication with the computer, the agents having access to a destination file system, the transmitter waiting until a predetermined non-zero number or percentage of the agents determine that their respective web servers are able to receive the identified changes before transmitting the identified changes to the agents; and

(d) a receiver for receiving a response from the computer after ~~the signal is sent~~ the modification list is transmitted, the response indicating that the destination file system received the identified changes.

25. (Previously presented): The content distributor of claim 24, wherein the transmitter is also for transmitting a copy of a changed file of the master source file set to the agent for installation on the destination file system.

26 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 7 wherein the file attribute is stored in a list of file attributes.

27. (Canceled):

28. (Currently Amended) A method for replicating changes in a master source file set on destination file systems located on respective hosts, the destination file systems for access by respective ones of a plurality of web servers, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) identifying changes in the master source file set on a master computer;

(b) storing the identified changes in a modification list;

(c) transmitting the modification list to respective agents in communication with respective ones of the web servers, the agents having access to the respective destination file systems, each one of the destination file systems with its respective agent and web server running on the same respective host, thereby notifying the respective web servers that the master source file set has changed;

(d) waiting for a predetermined number or percentage of the web servers to be able to receive the updated content;

(e) if a predetermined non-zero number or percentage of the web servers are able to receive the updated content, then:

(1) transmitting the changes to the agents corresponding to the web servers that are able to receive the identified changes for completion of installation at those web servers, regardless of whether another one of the web servers is unable to complete installation of the identified changes; and

(2) receiving a response from at least one web server indicating that the identified changes are installed at the respective destination file system of that agent; and

(f) aborting transmission of the changes to the agents if fewer than the predetermined number or percentage of the web servers are able to receive the updated content.

29. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28, further comprising aborting installation of the changes if an insufficient number of agents are available to serve new content.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising transmitting a signal to the agents separate from the modification list, the signal indicating that the agents are permitted to install the changes in the respective web servers.

31 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting a signal to the agent separate from the modification list, the signal indicating that the agent is permitted to install the changes in the at least one web server.

32. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein, after the waiting step, the identified changes are transmitted to the agents corresponding to the web servers that are able to receive the identified changes for completion of installation at those web servers, regardless of whether another one of the web servers is unable to complete installation of the identified changes.

33. (New): The system of claim 19, wherein the identified changes are transmitted to the agents corresponding to the web servers that are able to receive the identified changes for completion of installation at those web servers, regardless of whether another one of the web servers is unable to complete installation of the identified changes.

34. (New): The content distributor of claim 24, wherein the identified changes are transmitted to the agents corresponding to the web servers that are able to receive the identified changes for completion of installation at those web servers, regardless of whether another one of the web servers is unable to complete installation of the identified changes.